

Message Text

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60
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 201759Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6783
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16669

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, CY, UK
SUBJECT: NICOSIA, LARNACA AND AKROTIRI AIRPORTS

REF: LONDON 16321

1. DURING MEETING WITH VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICER LEDSKY DECEMBER 19, FCO DEPARTMENT HEAD GOODISON NOTED THAT BRITISH HAD DROPPED THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EC DEMARCHE TO TURKEY ON NICOSIA AIRPORT IN LIGHT OF PROGRESS HOPED FOR ON THAT QUESTION FOLLOWING US AND UK CONSULTATIONS WITH TURKS AND GREEKS IN BRUSSELS.

2. FCO IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO GET A SWEETENING IN TERMS BEING OFFERED BY BRITISH MIDLANDS (LAST MEETING WAS AFTERNOON DECEMBER 19) BUT OFFICIALS CONFIDE THAT THINGS ARE NOT GOING VERY WELL. BRITISH MIDLANDS MUST HAVE COMMERCIALLY VIABLE DEAL (NO HMG SUBSIDY IS BEING OFFERED) AND THAT CANNOT COMPETE WITH REPORTED TERMS OF AEROFLOT OFFER.

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3. FCO OFFICIALS TRIED OUT OFFER OF AKROTIRI USE IN IN-

FORMAL WAY (ON "WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF" BASIS) WITH CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVE SAVVA EARLIER THIS WEEK. SAVVA REPLIED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF LARNACA HAS GONE TOO FAR BY NOW FOR AKROTIRI TO AFFECT IT. FCO OFFICIALS FEEL AKROTIRI NO LONGER USEFUL TRUMP CARD AGAINST AEROFLOT OFFER.

4. HOWEVER, BRITISH HAVE REPORT FROM THEIR AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA WHO WAS TOLD BY GREEK AMBASSADOR THERE LAST SATURDAY (DECEMBER 14) THAT CYPRIOTS WOULD TURN DOWN AEROFLOT OFFER, INFORMING SOVIETS OF THEIR DECISION DECEMBER 16. THIS INFO WAS GIVEN ON PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. BRITISH ARE NOT SURE HOW MUCH WEIGHT THEY SHOULD ATTACH TO IT.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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